



Padre Island National Seashore  
**SandDollar**



**Friday, November 12, 2004**

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## **Superintendent**

I am pleased to announce that Sam Brown has graciously accepted the additional responsibility here at the park as our Equal Opportunity Counselor. I feel it is imperative that we have a person on site to fill this very important collateral duty, and I am confident that Sam is up to challenge. Sam will soon be receiving the training for this discipline, and be available to all park personnel.

Thank you Sam, and congratulations. Also, I would like to thank all the others who submitted their names for consideration for this position as I truly appreciate the willingness to contribute time and energy for the good of the park.

Also, I would like to let everyone know of a new program we are going to begin, Superintendent's brown bag. About once a month, we will schedule all employee meetings during the lunch hour in the HQ lunch room. These will be for any and all employees who choose to attend to review park issues and ask questions on certain topics. I will also be interested in knowing what topics are of interest to you for these meetings. I will be conducting brown bags, with folks in order to promote communication and understanding of park issues. Some of the topics that will be reviewed during brown bags will be, hiring processes, budget, park

strategic plan, GPRA, oil and gas, turtle recovery, pending park projects, and others.

Attached to all hard copies of the SandDollar, is a copy of a thank you letter from the Superintendent of Gulf Island N.S. Your efforts were very much appreciated.

Well done!

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 11/15 – Travel to BITH  
Tuesday, 11/16 – IN BITH-BOD Meeting  
Wed., 11/17 – In the Park  
Thurs., 11/18 – In the Park  
Friday, 11/19 – In the Park

## *Safety Notes --*

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe & have a safe day.

DPS will be hosting a Driving Safety class on Friday November 19<sup>th</sup>. Chiefs, please let Dispatch know who you will be sending from your divisions ASAP.

## **Employees Association News**

**The Protection division would like to thank  
Everyone for making the Ice Cream Social a  
Success!!**

# Administration

## Health Benefits

More information regarding 2005 health benefits can be found at the end of the Sanddollar.

Open season for health benefits is Nov 8 - Dec 13

[www.opm.gov/insure](http://www.opm.gov/insure) is the website for additional information and to view the brochures/prices.

Brochures will be distributed when/if they arrive.

There is a bill going through Washington that has to do with dental and vision for government employees. It is unknown at this time if the government will pay a portion of the premium like the health benefits or if it will be like the long term care where the employee pays the full portion.

(Please verify all information and figures listed below.)

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GEHA will have 3 options to choose from this year:

high:	self \$ 89.29	family \$181.38
standard:	self \$ 33.28	family \$ 78.62
Health savings advantage	self \$ \$ 44.68	family \$103.21

GEHA's description of the health savings advantage option - combines a high deductible health plan with health savings account (HSA) that can help you build tax-advantaged savings for medical expenses and retirement. (You must be eligible for the HSA.

The prescription mail order will be Medco-by-Mail. There will be increases in the mail order prescriptions. (It may be high option prescriptions \$15, \$50 and \$60, you will need to check out the web site or view a brochure when they arrive). Some changes to dental. You can view claims on-line.

GEHA has the 2005 brochure on their website at [www.geha.com](http://www.geha.com)

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Standard	self \$ 50.71	family \$118.06
Basic	self \$ 37.99	family \$ 88.99 (no change in premiums for basic)

Basic - This is almost like an HMO, you must use a doctor within the network.

-\$20 office visit and \$30 specialist visit

-No deductibles

- No charge for lab test, x-rays and other diagnostic tests billed by preferred providers
- Outpatient - \$40 (includes lab and x-rays)
- Inpatient - \$100 per day up to 5 days (\$500); inpatient \$100 per surgeon
- \$30 urgent care
- \$50 emergency room
- \$20 Dental (2 preventive exams per year)
- Prescription - NO mail order; \$10 generic, \$25, 50%

Standard - \$15 co-pay Doctor visit, \$15 yearly physical exam  
 -\$15 co-pay therapy (physical, speech, etc. limited to 75 visits)  
 -Inpatient- \$100 co-pay  
 -Outpatient-10% of allowable charges  
 -Dental benefits are limited to a fee schedule

Caremark will be used for the mail service prescription instead of Medco. All information will be transferred and all telephone numbers will remain the same. Customers should not actually know that anything has changed except for the name.

Doctor can fax prescription into Caremark. Website: [www.fepblue.org](http://www.fepblue.org)

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Mail Handlers High	Self \$151.01	family \$296.79
Standard	Self \$ 45.16	family \$ 95.64
Consumer Option	42.25	95.75

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APWU High	Self \$ 59.72	family \$120.51
consumer driven	40.89	95.23

## **UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:**

### **New TEL courses:**

**Nov 18th Planning and NEPA Forum - Working Effectively in Interdisciplinary Teams (sponsored by the BLM) 11:30-2:00pm ET**

**Nov 18th Personal Protection Equipment New Time 2:30-4:30pm ET**

**Nov 23rd The New Performance Plan Training** probably 2 hours in the afternoon ET time

**Dec 7th Emerging Leaders - Optimizing Your Attitude, Energy and Focus 1:00-4:00pm ET**

**Dec 8th Emerging Leaders - Strategic Communication Tactics 1:00-4:00pm ET**

**Dec 13**

**Retirement Planning for New Employees 1:00-3:00pm ET**

**Please see My Learning Manager for more information on the following Courses:**

November

It is the Dose That Makes the Poison - Understanding Exposure Assessment

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DEU Recertification Training (attendance required both days, same time)

Conservation at the Landscape Scale

Personal Protection Equipment

Foundations for NPS Cultural Resources Management-Module #1 (attendance required both days..same time)

December

ELC Module 800: Optimizing Your Attitude, Energy and Focus

ELC Module 900: Strategic Communication Tactics

Retirement Planning for New Employees

Bloodborne Pathogens: Breaking the Chain of Infection

Bloodborne Pathogens: Breaking the Chain of Infection

## **Facility Management**

Six vendors have expressed interest in the construction of the new radio tower. This project is expected to begin the end of January.

Luis and Chris will be involved in FMSS training Monday and Tuesday. They will also be in the AFS3 training Wednesday and Thursday.

## **Interpretation**

## **Protection**

## **Resources Management**

## **Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery**

Donna will be on annual leave on Wednesday November 10 and Friday November 12. All division staff members will be out of the office on holiday, lieu days, or annual leave from Thursday November 11 through Sunday November 14. If a stranded turtle is found during that time, please report it to dispatch who will contact a volunteer that will respond to the sighting.

Cynthia and Donna will attend budget training on November 17-18. Cynthia, Donna, Rachael, Shelby, and Dale will attend defensive driving training on November 19.

Volunteers are now conducting one patrol per week to the Mansfield Channel looking for stranded sea turtles.

Division staff members are working on a variety of projects in the office.